

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Wedge at 6:15 PM. The following members were present:

Ms. Sylvia Wedge, Chair	Mrs. Terri Cortvriend, Clerk	Mrs. Marge Levesque
Mr. Richard Carpenter, V. Chair		Mr. Michael Buddemeyer

Absent: Mr. Jamie Heaney and Mr. Douglas Wilkey

Also Present: Dr. Lusi, Asst. Supt. Jermain, Patti Cofield

A motion was made by Mr. Carpenter and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exceptions (a)(1) Job Performance/Personnel Matters, and (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation. So voted 5-0.

Public Session recessed at 6:32 PM and resumed at 7:10 PM.

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Ms. Wedge reported that an Executive Session was held at 6:30 PM, and no votes were taken. She stated that Senator Chuck Levesque has been working on the traffic issues on Turnpike Avenue near Portsmouth High School. She stated that she and Mrs. Cortvriend are working on the brick orders for the PHS gymnasium.

Ms. Wedge read a letter from Representative Loughlin in which was enclosed a \$1,550 check made out to the Portsmouth School Department. This donation represents a 10% co-pay for his health insurance that is fully paid by the State. Mrs. Wedge thanked him for his generosity.

2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Lusi welcomed the parents and students who were present in the audience. She alerted the Committee to two meetings that the Town Council has invited the School Committee and Administration to. On March 19th in the Town Council Chamber, a public meeting with the Department of Transportation will take place to discuss traffic safety around the Portsmouth High School/Turnpike Avenue area. The Council has also scheduled a meeting with the Ethics Commission on March 21st, and all town boards and commissions are invited to attend.

Dr. Lusi reported that last week was National Foreign Language Week, and many activities took place at Portsmouth High School, such as the annual International Volleyball Tournament.

Dr. Lusi briefly explained Judge Indeglia's decision on the Caroulo action, however, we have not received his written decision yet. She stated that although he accepted the B&E recommendations, he did make some changes, which she briefly explained.

Dr. Lusi announced that she spoke with the Town Administrator about the submission of next year's budget to the Town Council. Because of the time we've spent preparing for the Caroulo trial, our timeline has been extended by two weeks, and our budget is now due to the Town on April 9th. She will send a letter for Mr. Driscoll to present to the Town Council confirming their agreement to extend the timeline.

Dr. Lusi announced that we have been preparing next year's school calendar, and we will present it to the Committee at the next meeting.

- a) **Teaching and Learning:** Assistant Superintendent Jermain congratulated the Arts Department in Grades K-12 for their exhibit at the Portsmouth Public Library. She encouraged everyone to visit the exhibit. Exhibits will also be displayed at the schools over the next month. She reported that Professional Development is on-going. Teachers in Grades 7 and 8 reviewed diagnostic reading assessments, and teachers in Grades 3 and 4 will be working on Investigations Math. In addition, the Dibels training is taking place. She announced that she will be sharing the NECAP information with the Committee in the near future.
- b) **Finance and Operations:** See above.
- c) **High School Liaison, Julia Seddon** (filling in for Marissa Mello): Miss Seddon reported that the Senior Class hosted their Silent Auction in the new gymnasium last Friday, and they collected almost \$3,000, which they will put towards their prom. She announced that the Student Council is hosting an Easter Egg hunt at Elmhurst School, and the Variety Show and Fashion Show will be held next month.

3. STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

- a) **Peer Tutors.** A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to commend the following students for their participation in the Peer Tutoring Program, under the direction of Ms. Debra Seddon, at PMS. So voted 5-0.

Sarah Cooney	Bradley Wicks	Brendan Thornton	Emily Gordon	Luke Fleury
Victoria Oman	Keri McVey	Jonathan Young	Ryan Bahnsen	Andrew Solomon
Daniel Jackson	Alex Costa	Katherine Gonzales	Adrienne Nordhill	Natalia Almeida
Allie Nekrasz	Ross Wheeler	Victoria Alves	Jenna Davis	Samantha Carnevale
Ben Mazur				Jessica Banks

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to approve the minutes of the meetings held February 26, 2007, and February 27, 2007. So voted 5-0.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) **Maintenance Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee accepts the resignation of Robert Ghirardi, Maintenance – Category C, effective March 31, 2007.”
- b) **Coach Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee accepts the resignation of Lisa A. Bagwell from the position of Girls’ Basketball Coach at Portsmouth Middle School.”
- c) **Coaching Appt. - PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee approves the coaching appointments at Portsmouth Middle School for the 2007 spring season, as presented.”
- d) **Approval of Requests for Permission to Home School.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee approves the request to provide home schooling for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year for students 17-3/07 and 18-3/07, as listed in the confidential memo dated March 2, 2007, in accordance with the provisions of R.I. Law 16-19-2.”

A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. So voted 5-0. Dr. Lusi announced the appointment of Keri Jardine and Bethany Lako as co-coaches of the PMS track team.

6. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- a) **Report from Newport County Regional Special Education.** Mrs. Trish Martins, Director of Newport County Regional Special Education, gave an informative Powerpoint presentation on the regional Special Education program, which is a collaborative effort between four towns to consolidate resources. Mr. Carpender asked Mrs. Martins to keep the Committee informed as to mandates.
- b) **Request for Approval – Policy #5800, High School Yearbook, 2nd Reading and Adoption.** A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque and seconded by Mr. Carpender to approve as a second reading and adopt Policy #5800, High School Yearbook. So voted 5-0.
- c) **Agenda Item Request - Amendment to By-Laws regarding Confidential Material.** (Requested by Mr. Carpender.) Mr. Carpender explained that in the past, confidential material was turned in at the end of each meeting. He also stated that at the recent School Committee retreat, the issue was brought up again. He said that there is one member of our committee who will not turn in confidential material because we don’t have a policy on it. He would like to bring forward an amendment to the by-laws to address this issue.

Mr. Carpender made a motion that the 30-day notification period required in Section VIII Amendments, Paragraph A, of the By-laws be waived in accordance with the provisions in Paragraph B of Section VIII. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. Mr. Buddemeyer suggested that we wait to vote on this until the full committee is here. He does support the motion but would like to have the full committee present. Ms. Wedge felt that because one of the absent members is seriously ill, she doesn't want to wait on it. Mr. Carpender agreed with Ms. Wedge. So voted 4-1. Mr. Buddemeyer was opposed.

Mr. Carpender made a motion that the following be added to the By-laws as Sub-Paragraph F, Confidential Material, in Section VIII Miscellany – "All confidential material of a personal nature to include but not limited to employee applications, layoff/displacement notices, and documentation identifying employees or students, will be required to be returned to the Superintendent at the close of the meeting where the initial action was scheduled. Confidential material that is not personal in nature to include but no limited to contract negotiations or litigation will be returned to the Superintendent at the conclusion of the business unless it is decided by the simple majority of the School Committee that the material is no longer considered confidential. Confidential material shall not be copied, transcribed, nor released without a simple majority vote of the School Committee. Members who violate this by-law may be subject to censure and may be required to view confidential material at the Administration Building." Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 4-1. Mr. Buddemeyer was opposed.

7. SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA

- a) **Finance:** The next meeting will take place on March 14, 2007, at 7:00 PM.
- b) **Policy:** Plans are in the works to set up a Policy Subcommittee Meeting to discuss Integrated Technology policies.
- c) **Gymnasium Construction Oversight Committee (GCOC)**
 - 1) **Approval of Payment.** A motion was made by Mrs. Cortvriend and seconded by Mr. Carpender to approve a payment of \$8,000.00 to Luis Torrado, L.A. Torrado Architects, on Invoice #1 for architectural services on Phase 2 of the PHS gymnasium. So voted 5-0.
 - 2) **Approval of Progress Payment.** Mrs. Cortvriend stated that the test and balance analysis has been done, but it has not been signed. A motion was made by Mrs. Cortvriend and seconded by Mr. Carpender to approve the progress payment of Invoice #05-095-00013 from Advanced Building Concepts in the amount of \$30,010.86. So voted 5-0. Mr. Carpender stated that he would like some clarification on the test and balance analysis report, and he would like someone to attend a meeting to explain it.

Mrs. Cortvriend stated that the next GCOC meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 20th, 5:30 PM, at the Portsmouth High School Library, to discuss Phase 2.

d) **Fundraising:** No Report.

e) **Prudence Island School Working Committee:** Mr. Carpender reported that the subcommittee met last Saturday, and they are putting together a report that they'd like to present to the School Committee in a workshop format. He hopes to be able to do that within the next month.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. So voted 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for

Terri Cortvriend, Clerk